



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 2-5-13

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:  
Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am  
Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como Avenue SE

### Items:

- 1) City Action on Guns
- 2) New Inspector for the Second Precinct
- 3) Parking Amendment for University Overlay
- 4) 2013 Budget
- 5) Regulatory Services Restructuring
- 6) City Action on Immigration Reform
- 7) Sign up for Step-Up
- 8) Creative Vitality Index
- 9) Free Tax Help
- 10) 2012 Election Report
- 11) Bike Crash Report
- 12) Open Streets Events
- 13) Trap Neuter Return
- 14) Year of the Dakota Resolution
- 15) Self-Managed Special Service Districts
- 16) Energy Disclosure Ordinance
- 17) Commercial Pedal Car Ordinance
- 18) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email

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Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

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Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

- 1) The Council's Committee of the Whole has voted to send forward a new section on guns in our state and federal legislative agendas. The federal agenda is entirely new, and endorses the Obama Administration's list of recommendations, *"Now is the Time: The President's plan to protect our children and our communities by reducing gun violence."* The state agenda pulls together previous positions on guns from multiple places in the agenda and puts them all in one, clear section. It also incorporates some new positions. From my perspective, the most important new position we are taking is for an amendment to the state law that preempts the ability of local jurisdictions to implement firearms safety ordinances appropriate to our community. Some other key examples are: creating a gross misdemeanor offense for carrying a firearm while under the influence; reduced access to firearms for those who have experienced a mental health incident; increased discretionary power for municipalities to grant or deny firearm permits; and requiring the reporting of lost or stolen firearms. I continue to press for clarity on the effectiveness of the current laws barring people under the age of 21 from owning and purchasing weapons. I believe that, if the laws aren't strong enough to keep people between 18 and 21 from buying handguns, the City should take a strong position in favor of tightening this restriction. The committee also postponed an item calling for all "carry" permits to require that guns be concealed. With that one exception, all of these proposals will come for final action at the Council on February 8<sup>th</sup>. I am hopeful that this new legislative agenda section on guns will pass strongly, and that many of our proposals will pass the legislature and be signed into law.
- 2) Janee Harteau was officially been sworn in as Minneapolis' 52nd chief of police in December and has already made changes to her leadership team. The Inspector of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct, Bryan Shafer, has been moved to a new position as the Inspector of the 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct. The new 2<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Inspector will be **Kathy Waite**. I have worked extensively with Kathy as a Sector Lieutenant on the West Bank, and I believe she will be a fantastic Inspector. We're lucky to have her.

- 3) I have started the process to introduce an ordinance that would change the parking requirement in the University Area Overlay. I have introduced this due to concerns I have heard from folks from the U area about some of the ordinance's unintended consequences. One of the primary reasons why I want to lead on this effort is so that I can help make sure the issue gets fully vetted and influenced by all the views of our University partners who helped create the overlay district. Specifically, I want this to be developed with and through the University District Alliance and all the neighborhood organizations and business associations within the district. In rough draft form here are 4 options I have come up with, with more details yet to be specified:
- Change the requirement to another multiplier, for instance .25 spaces per bedroom.
  - Exempt larger apartment buildings from the requirement so that they would fall under the city-wide 1 space per dwelling unit.
  - Exempt projects in close proximity to a major public transit line or station/stop.
  - Allow buildings to provide less than one space per unit, by simply applying the ".5 spaces per bedroom" standard and delete the "but not less than one space per unit" requirement in the current rules.
  - Some combination of these.
- 4) The City Council approved the City's \$1.085 billion 2013 budget in December. This is 3% less than the 2012 budget, but still includes a 1.77% increase in the total property taxes we will collect. The budget includes more money for streets and other infrastructure. It adds \$2.5 million to the Police Department with the aim of having 10 more officers on the force by next summer and \$1.1 million to the Fire Department. Noteworthy amendments passed include: shifting funds to retain six Community Crime Prevention Specialists; adding two 911 operators, fully funding the City's Domestic Abuse Prosecution team, adding \$46,000 to support the Minneapolis Television Network (MTN) and providing \$40,000 to support Restorative Justice programs in Minneapolis. All of these amendments were accomplished without increasing the total budget, and most will use unexpended revenues from 2012. I supported all of them and co-authored, with Council Member Colvin Roy, an amendment that increased restorative Justice funding to \$40,000.
- 5) The most significant change made through this budget process involved the restructuring of the Regulatory Services Department. Licensing and building inspections have been moved to the Community Planning and Economic Development department and Environmental Health has moved to the Health Department. A smaller, more focused, Regulatory Department will include Housing Inspections, Animal Care and Control and Traffic Control.
- 6) The Council's Committee of the Whole has also sent forward new legislative items regarding immigration reform in Minnesota. Specifically, the City would support allowing all students - regardless of immigration status - who graduate from Minnesota high schools to pay in-state tuition to attend Minnesota public colleges and universities, and to apply for scholarships from the U of M and Minnesota State College and University system. The City would also support modifying the Minnesota driver's license procedures to allow information regarding the applicant to be gathered from an identification card issued by a government other than the United States. There are good examples of both of these policies from other states. Many other states (California, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Washington) allow students to pay in-state tuition, regardless of status. California, New Mexico, and Texas allow students, regardless of status, to have access to state financial aid. In New Mexico, the percentage of uninsured drivers dropped from 33 percent in 2002, before immigrants could receive driver's licenses, to 10.6 percent after they could receive licenses. These policies have proven to be successful in other states, and it's time Minnesota joined in this progress. This action by the Council would not have been possible without a lot of hard work by the Latino Engagement Task Force, and I commend them and the staff with the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department for putting these important recommendations together.
- 7) The deadline to apply for a STEP-UP internship is **March 4<sup>th</sup>**. All youth must apply online. If a youth requires assistance with their application, they can contact Tammy Dickinson at 673-5041 or they can visit the STEP-UP page for agencies that offer staff and/or computer assistance. All applicants must: live in Minneapolis; Be 14-21 years old by June 1, 2013 (no exceptions); Not be currently enrolled in college (PSEO is ok); Be eligible to work in the US by June 1, 2013 and have proper documentation; Meet guideline incomes or have a substantial barrier to getting a job (for example IEPs, English language learners, or pregnant and parenting teens).

- 8) The City's Director of Arts and Culture, Gulgun Kayim, has presented a very interesting and helpful report on the City's Creative Vitality Index. You can read it here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-103117.pdf>. The CVI is a tool that measures annual changes in the economic health of highly-creative industries using information about organizational revenue, jobs, and other measures from creative businesses and nonprofits. The Twin Cities metro area is **sixth** in the nation for our CVI score, or four and a half times greater than the national average. Some other key metrics: the creative economy is responsible for over **\$700 million** in local economic activity; charitable giving to arts organizations in the Twin Cities is **thirteen and a half times** greater than the national average; approximately **5%** of Minneapolis residents work in a creative occupation, and **21%** of creative jobs in Minnesota are located in Minneapolis. The five creative occupations with the most jobs, in order, are photographers, musicians and singers, writers and authors, graphic designers and art directors. Southeast Minneapolis (area code 55414) is the part of the city with the third-highest number of artists, and the greatest number outside of downtown.
- 9) A nonprofit called AccountAbility Minnesota is making available free tax and financial services for low- and moderate-income people in the Twin Cities area. People in Minneapolis may sign up for tax clinics at **East Side Neighborhood Services**, 1700 2<sup>nd</sup> St NE, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:45pm and Saturdays at 9am; **Hope Community Center** at 611 E Franklin Ave, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:45pm and Saturdays at 9am; **Latino Economic Development Center**, 1516 E Lake St, Ste 201, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:45pm and Saturdays at 9am; and the **Minneapolis Urban League**, 2100 Plymouth Ave N, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2pm and 5:45pm and Saturdays at 9am. Individuals who make \$30,000 or less per year and families that make \$50,000 or less per year are eligible. For questions or more information, go to [www.accountabilitymn.org](http://www.accountabilitymn.org) or call 651-287-0187.
- 10) City Clerk Casey Carl presented a report on the 2012 general election to the Council in December. You can read it here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/elections/WCMS1P-100838>. The 2012 election had the highest voter turnout since the 1940s, along with the largest number of same-day voter registrations in Minneapolis history. Some polling locations were insufficient and the Council directed staff to work with key community stakeholders to review all polling place locations to identify and address challenges and identify potential new locations for the most problematic precincts. The committee also reviewed and supported several potential changes to state law including: Early Voting, Vote Centers, and Electronic Poll Books. The City Council also approved the 2013 Municipal Election calendar as follows: Candidate Filing - **July 30 – August 13**, 1st Campaign Finance filing - **September 3**, 2nd Campaign Finance filing - **October 29**. The General Election date will be **November 5**.
- 11) Last week, the Council's Transportation and Public Works committee received a very informative report and presentation from Simon Blenski in the Public Works Bicycle and Pedestrian Office on bicycle crashes in Minneapolis. The report is drawn from ten years of crash statistics in Minneapolis, and provides three key takeaways:
- Most crashes are occurring at intersections along major arterials.
  - Motorists are not seeing or yielding to bicyclists.
  - Bicyclists are not riding in a predictable manner.

Item 1 is very interesting, and speaks to a need to do more projects like Public Works did on 15th Ave SE, where we clearly identified conflict areas between bicycles and turning vehicles. Most of the motor vehicles involved in crashes are making turns, especially left turns. This confirms my interest in the "Copenhagen Model" of cycle track facilities, in which bicyclists are physically separated from cars and intersections are treated very carefully to reduce conflict. In some cases, bicycle and vehicle traffic might need separate signal phases. The per-capita crash rate has declined as the number of bicyclists has increased. My hope is that this effect will intensify as we build better, more comfortable facilities like cycle tracks, and attract more riders. Other cities have shown that there is a real "safety in numbers" effect: as more people bike, there are fewer and fewer per capita crashes.

- 12) The Council has unanimously voted to accept a \$50,000 grant from the Partnership for a Healthier America to organize four Open Streets events in 2013, along with a resolution formally cosponsoring these events and committing the City to \$50,000 worth of in-kind services (not paid for by the grant). This is a great step forward for Open Streets in Minneapolis, and I'm happy my office played such a key role in applying for this grant. If you have a route on the east side or in south Minneapolis (east of I-35W) that you would like to have considered as one of the new Open Streets events in 2013, please let my office know.

- 13) In 2013 I will be bringing forward a proposal that would allow the City to coordinate and participate in Trap Neuter Return programs to address the problem of Feral, or wild, cats in Minneapolis. For information about a program in New Jersey that might be a model for ours visit <http://www.aplnj.org/projectTNR.php>.
- 14) On December 14, 2012, the City Council unanimously passed a resolution I helped draft that will help us move one small step closer to addressing the grave injustices done to the Dakota people in Minneapolis and Minnesota over the years. It calls for a year of remembering, honoring and truth-telling to help us understand and rectify the wrongs that were perpetrated during, and since, 1862 on the Dakota People and designates "The Year of the Dakota: Remembering, Honoring, and Truth-Telling," from December 26, 2012 to December 26, 2013. My sincere thanks go to Chris Mato Nunpa for helping and inspiring us to get this done.
- 15) Last week, the Council's Transportation and Public Works (TPW) committee passed a motion directing staff to develop a strategy for self-managed special service districts. This policy is on a very tight timeline. Starting with today's staff direction, there will be just under three months to get the policy through the Council. The reason for this fast timeline is that the policy must be in place by April 1 at the latest in order to allow districts that are interested in transitioning to self management or forming as self-managed service districts to proceed with the actions they need to take in order to get up and running at the beginning of 2014. There will be several opportunities to learn more about and comment on these questions. First, Public Works staff have organized a meeting on **Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>**, starting at 3:30pm at the Hiawatha Maintenance Facility, 1901 East 26th Street. Then staff will present a draft policy to TPW at its meeting on **February 26<sup>th</sup>**. A final recommendation will be presented to TPW on **March 19<sup>th</sup>**, and finally passed by the Council on **March 29<sup>th</sup>**.
- 16) The Council's Regulatory Energy and Environment committee has unanimously voted to send forward a new ordinance that will require all City and other public buildings over 25,000 square feet and eventually all commercial buildings over 50,000 square feet to disclose the energy performance of each building, as rated by the EPA's Portfolio Manager program. The City will share this information publicly, on our website, helping to incent commercial building owners to make energy performance upgrades in order to stay competitive. Buildings will be phased-in over time, with City buildings first, the largest commercial buildings second, and all commercial buildings over 50,000 square feet by 2016. This approach has been tried in many other cities, with considerable success. It is one of the few things that the City can do to tackle climate change at a local level. I am extremely supportive of this work, and have helped develop the ordinance. This ordinance was crafted by an impressive staff team that included Brendon Slotterback and Gayle Prest in Sustainability, Emily Stern in CPED, Patrick Hanlon and Dan Huff in Regulatory Services, and Council Member Glidden and her office. I commend them for their great work, and hope and expect that the ordinance will pass the full Council.
- 17) The Regulatory Energy and Environment committee has sent forward an ordinance authored by Diane Hofstede that would begin to require licenses for Commercial Pedal Cars, also known colloquially as the "Pedal Pub." (That is one particular company, and there is another company in Minneapolis in this industry, the Traveling Tap.) I supported this ordinance. The City typically licenses alcohol-related businesses, and also regulates many transportation businesses like taxis and pedicabs. The Bicycle Advisory Committee, on which my Aide represents the City Council, has formally supported the ordinance after having a number of meetings with Licensing staff and folks from the industry. Almost all of the most stringent components of the ordinance that were opposed by the industry and the BAC have been removed or altered to meet folks' concerns. It is good to note that this is one expression of Minneapolis' unique bicycle-friendly culture: the first "pedal pub" in North America was in Minneapolis!
- 18) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Capital Long Range Improvement Committee, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Senior Advisory Committee, Telecommunications Network, ThincGreen Advisory Committee, Youth Violence Prevention Committee, Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov).